

Morro Bay National Estuary Program Pre-Trip Briefing

July 25, 2018

Morro Bay

- Encompasses a 75-square-mile watershed including residential communities, ranch land, crop land, National Guard base and wild lands (see Map)
- Impacts from agriculture, urban development, recreation and other upstream land uses have resulted in bacterial and nutrient pollution, reduced freshwater flows, habitat loss and sedimentation in the Bay.

Morro Bay National Estuary Program (NEP)

- Is one of 28 NEPS nationwide (and one of 3 in Region 9) convened under Section 320 of the Clean Water Act to develop and implement a Comprehensive Conservation Management Plan to protect and restore water quality and habitat;
- NEPs complete restoration and conservation projects to reduce pollution and protect natural areas; support research and monitoring to assess changes in the estuary; and educate residents and visitors on how to keep Morro Bay clean and healthy.
- EPA provides grant funding (~\$600K annually) and technical assistance to the Morro Bay NEP to support restoration and protection of the Morro Bay Estuary. The NEP matches federal funding dollar-for-dollar to implement its workplan.

Partners

- Bay Foundation of Morro Bay – NEP host entity who receives EPA funding to implement the Comprehensive Conservation Management Plan
- Government-
 - Federal – EPA, NOAA, US Forest Service, National Guard at Camp SLO
 - State – CA Conservation Corps, Regional Water Board, Cal Poly Technical University at San Luis Obispo, California Department of Fish and Wildlife, California State Coastal Conservancy, Caltrans
 - Local - City of Morro Bay, San Luis Obispo County, Coastal San Luis Resource Conservation District, local school districts
- Local Businesses – oyster farmers, ranchers, fishermen
- Nonprofit Organizations – Land Conservancy of San Luis Obispo County, Mutts for the Bay, Morro Bay Commercial Fishermen's Organization, Morro Coast Audubon Society, Trout Unlimited